

Harry S. Truman, 1952

Aug. 14 [228]

THE PRESIDENT. He will get the same reports that the Governor gets.

[4.] Q. Mr. President, 8 months have now transpired since Gen. Mark Clark asked that his name be withdrawn as Ambassador to the Vatican. The position has remained vacant, and I wonder if you intend to make a recess appointment, or let it go over for your successor to decide in January?

THE PRESIDENT. The matter will not be considered at this time. I have no further comment to make on it.

[Pause]

What's the matter? Have you gone so political that you can't ask questions any more? [Laughter]

[5.] Q. Mr. President—

THE PRESIDENT. What is it?

Q. —have your plans for private life jelled yet?

THE PRESIDENT. Oh, no. They are in the making all the time. I am going to have the best time any man ever had, when I get out of here. You watch. [Laughter]

[6.] Q. Mr. President, since acceptance of the Labor Day speech invitation in Milwaukee, do you expect later to make a special appeal or speech to the farmers—

THE PRESIDENT. Well, that is a matter that will be worked out as we go along. The Governor and I did not discuss details individually. We discussed the Labor Day meetings at Milwaukee and Detroit, and decided that those meetings ought to be held.

Q. Mr. President, is there any possibility that you will reconsider the invitation to the National Ploughing—

THE PRESIDENT. What?

Q. The invitation to the National Ploughing Contest?

THE PRESIDENT. I have not received that invitation yet, I don't think. Of course I will give it consideration if it comes. Had quite a time out there with about 96,000 people. I think there were 10 acres of them, if I'm not mistaken.

[7.] Q. Mr. President, there was one

thing I am not clear on, and that is when General Eisenhower was sent the invitation?

THE PRESIDENT. The telegram went to him the day before yesterday, but he had been informed that he would be receiving the information that the Governor did, sometime before that, by the Defense Department.

Mr. Short:⁶ Mr. President, General Eisenhower received that telegram at 9:17 a.m. Denver time yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT. It was yesterday. The formal invitation went forward in the telegram that I sent.

Q. Did you say he had been told ahead of time?

THE PRESIDENT. He had been told by the Defense Department that he would receive any information about the foreign situation in which he was interested.

Q. Could you tell me when he was told that?

THE PRESIDENT. Oh, I don't know. About a week ago, I reckon. I discussed it with the Secretary of Defense and with the CIA a week or 10 days ago.

[8.] Q. Mr. President, the CIO News of this week had a list of eight Senators that they regarded as the worst enemies of labor, including Senator Cain from Washington. I wonder if he was included on your list of those you would most like to see replaced this fall?

THE PRESIDENT. I want to see Democrats elected everywhere. I have no special pick on anybody.

[9.] Q. Mr. President, have your plans jelled on calling a special session of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT. They have not. That's a good word.

[10.] Q. Mr. President, regarding your future plans. Since the point 4 program has been identified with your administration, I wonder if it would be of continued interest to you after you leave the White House, and whether you think that it is

⁶ Joseph H. Short, Secretary to the President.